

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed. Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER  
18 AUG 24 AM 9:39  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 1. Name of Traveler: Caralee Conklin
- 2. a. Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_ or None   
 b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: August 13, 2018 Return: August 16, 2018  
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ or None
- 4. Departure city: Washington, DC (via DCA) Destination: Sioux Falls, SD; Rapid City, SD Return city: Washington, DC (via DCA)
- 5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Mitchell, SD; Kimball, SD; Chamberlain, SD; Wall, SD; Custer, SD;
- 6. Describe meetings and events attended: see attachment and final itinerary (also attached)

- 7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):
  - a.  a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
  - b.  the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; *and*
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
- 8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. (Signify that statement is true by checking box):   
 b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: Caralee Conklin DATE: 8/22/18

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Lacie Conner DATE: 8/22/18

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Lacie Conner

14

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. *A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.* You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.


**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

- 1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
- 2. Travel Destination(s): South Dakota, 3-day bus tour from Sioux Falls to Rapid City
- 3. Date of Departure: August 13, 2018 Date of Return: August 16, 2018
- 4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Zachary Barth, Brian Bates, Caralee Conklin, Austin Gage, Maggie Goessler, Julia Harrington, Rachel Hugman, Jack Lincoln  
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
- 5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$800.60	\$421.41	\$125	
Accompanying Relative				

- 6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:   
 Name: Jessica J. Golden Title: Executive Director  
 Organization: Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: 4121 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203

Telephone number: 703-351-2044

Email Address: jgolden@frs.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Caralee Conklin
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
3. Travel destination(s): Sioux Falls, SD; Mitchell, SD; Kimball, SD; Chamberlain, SD; Wall, SD; Custer, SD; Rapid City, SD
4. a. Date of departure August 13, 2018 Date of return: August 16, 2018  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  Yes  No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense?  Yes  No  
b. If yes:  
(1) Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age:  Yes  No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (*i.e.*, travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)?  Yes  No  
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms:  Yes  No  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
See attachment.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip?  Yes  No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

**ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL**

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: 7/10/2018



Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics**

**PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM**

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): \_\_\_\_\_  
Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
3. Check only one: I represent that:
  - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip  *or*
  - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds  *or*
  - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):  
[List Attached] House employees were invited due to their telecom focus, whether in a personal office or on committees that have jurisdiction over telecommunications issues.
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)?  Yes  No
6. Date of departure: August 13, 2018 Date of return: August 16, 2018
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC (DCA)  
b. Destination(s): Sioux Falls, SD with a 3-day tour of the state ending in Rapid City, SD  
c. City of return: Washington, DC (DCA)
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
  - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965:  *or*
  - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent:  *or*
  - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. Check one of the following:
  - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
  - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
  - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night:  *or*
  - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (*indicate agenda is attached by checking box*):

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (*signify that the statement is true by checking box*):  *or*

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

FRS is the sole sponsor of the trip and will make all arrangements for travel (transportation, lodging and meals) and will incur all expenses. FRS's mission is to sustain and enhance quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (*signify that the statement is true by checking box*):

15. I represent that either (*check one of the following*):

a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees:  *or*

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_  
Each day's meals will be at or under the federal per diem rate of \$51 per day.

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
South Dakota highlights a variety of geographic and financial challenges to providing robust broadband service to rural areas of the US and illustrates the critical needs for broadband technology.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Hampton Inn Mitchell City: Mitchell Cost per night: \$124

Reason(s) for selecting: The price was at or under the federal per diem for the area and close to our meeting locations.

Hotel name: Best Western Plains Motel City: Wall Cost per night: \$141.95

Reason(s) for selecting: The price was at or under the federal per diem for the area and close to our meeting locations.

Hotel name: Best Western Ramkota City: Rapid City Cost per night: \$135

Reason(s) for selecting: The price was at or under the federal per diem for the area and close to our meeting locations.

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1200 (App. \$900 flight, \$300 bus)	\$420 total	\$150
For each accompanying relative	0	0	0

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	0	0
For each accompanying relative	0	0

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below.  *or*  
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*J. Golden*  
 Jessica J. Golden

Executive Director

Foundation for Rural Service

4121 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203

703-351-2044

jgolden@frs.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 1015 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)  
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)



Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Ranking Member*



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 7, 2018

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Donna Herbert  
*Director of Administration*

Megan Savage  
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to  
the Chairwoman*

Daniel J. Taylor  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

Kenny Marchant, Texas  
Leonard Lance, New Jersey  
Mimi Walters, California  
John Ratcliffe, Texas

Yvette D. Clarke, New York  
Jared Polis, Colorado  
Anthony Brown, Maryland  
Steve Cohen, Tennessee

Ms. Caralee Conklin  
Office of the Honorable Louie Gohmert  
2243 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Conklin:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, scheduled for August 13 to 16, 2018, sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Services, with organizational support from the South Dakota Telecommunications Association.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Susan W. Brooks  
Chairwoman

Theodore E. Deutch  
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:kej

**Traveler Form Question #8:**

As Legislative Director, I manage all aspects of the Congressman's legislative portfolio. In particular, I handle the Congressman's Judiciary Committee assignment, including the telecom related issues within the committee's jurisdiction. South Dakota highlights a variety of geographic and financial challenges to providing robust broadband service to rural areas of the United States. The telecom companies on the itinerary will showcase how broadband services have improved the livelihood of rural residents.



**Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form****Employee:** Caralee Conklin**Trip Dates:** August 13-16, 2018**Trip Sponsor:** Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)Additional Response -- #6:

I attended and participated in each activity listed on the attached trip itinerary.

These activities included, but were not limited to:

- Touring broadband and telecommunications company sites, such as SDN Communications in Sioux Falls, Midstate Communications in Kimball, and Golden West Telecomm in Wall.
- Visited the Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center as part of a roundtable event featuring representatives from communications companies that provide services to the nine reservations in South Dakota. The panel included, Mona Thompson, CEO of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority, the first tribal telephone company in the US.
- Toured a data center owned by SDN Communications, which houses the equipment for an extensive rural broadband network.
- Viewed a live cattle auction in Kimball, SD. The cattle auction was being streamed online to international buyers via Midstate Communication's broadband services.
- Visited two active construction sites where Golden West contractors were replacing copper networks with fiber. These sites were providing fiber broadband service to several homes.
- Toured Badlands National Park and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, two National Park Service managed holdings that use broadband provided by local telecomm companies to provide internet access to guests, power vital management software and tools, and allow on-site researchers to conduct their work and share their findings. The remote location and rocky terrain of both sites made network installation particularly challenging.
- Addition to itinerary – toured Vantage Point Solutions, a full service firm providing engineering, consulting, project management solutions, data networking, and financial services to a variety of clients, both public and private. The tour and discussion was led by Lanny Thompson, CEO of Vantage Point, who is also an appointed member of the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC).



FOUNDATION FOR  
RURAL SERVICE

## **FRS Congressional Broadband Tour to South Dakota 2018**

*August 13-16, 2018*

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to enhancing quality of life in America by promoting a better understanding of rural issues. The vision of FRS is to harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Hill staff on the geographic and financial challenges of providing robust broadband service to remote rural areas, as well as to highlight the role rural telecom companies play in providing these essential services that support education, agriculture, health, and public safety. Attendees will visit with a range of small, rural telecommunications companies in South Dakota as well as companies that provide essential services to these companies such as engineering. The group will also visit with rural community leaders and discuss ways in which the state has been enhanced by broadband applications. Drive times through South Dakota will give FRS staff an opportunity to provide educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving “last mile” areas in a highly rural state.

Per the Ethics rules, no registered lobbyists will attend this trip. All expenses will be paid in full by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and will be subject to the daily per diem allowances for Senate and House employees—in other words, all meals, lodging and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

### **Monday, August 13**

**7:00am** Staffers will meet and check-in with Jessica Golden (Executive Director, Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)) at their flight’s gate at Washington Reagan Airport (DCA).

**7:45am—2:40pm** The group will fly together from DCA to Sioux Falls Regional Airport, South Dakota.

**2:40pm** Arrive at Sioux Falls Regional Airport. Jessica Golden (FRS) will provide staffers with welcome packets and lead them to the bus they will be taking for the entirety of the trip.

**2:50—3:00pm** Board bus and drive to SDN Communications (2900 W 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, SD).

**3:00—5:30pm** At SDN Communications, the group will be provided with a “Welcome to South Dakota” presentation, which will include an industry overview, a history of broadband funding mechanisms in the state such as the Universal Service Fund, and how funding programs and recent policy changes affect the telecommunications providers of South Dakota. Presenters will include:

- Rich Coit, Executive Director, South Dakota Telecommunications Association
- Greg Dean, Director of Industry Relations, South Dakota Telecommunications Association
- Mark Shlanta, CEO, SDN Communications
- Larry Thompson, CEO, Vantage Point Solutions

Also provided by the presenters will be a background on how SDN was founded by the rural telecom providers in the state, statistics from a recent broadband survey and a broadband engineering perspective.

**5:30—7:00pm** The group will head to dinner nearby where they will be joined by the presenters from the Welcome to South Dakota presentation. Jessica Golden (FRS) and Kelly Wismer (Communications Manager, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association) will moderate a discussion on reflections and follow-up questions from the day's discussion. Mark Shlanta (SDN Communications) will also provide background on data center the group will visit after dinner.

**7:00—7:20pm** Drive to SDN Data Center (*5300 North LaMesa Drive, Sioux Falls, SD*).

**7:20—7:45pm** Mark Shlanta (SDN Communications) will give the group a tour of the SDN Communications Data Center, a multi-million-dollar data center that features redundant power feeds, high-tech electronic identification security measures, and access to SDN's network and internet service.

**7:45—8:45pm** The group will drive to Mitchell, SD. Along the way, Kelly Wismer (NTCA) and Jessica Golden (FRS) will provide a wrap-up discussion of the day's activities and conversations.

**8:45pm** Arrive in Mitchell, check into hotel (*Hampton Inn Mitchell, 1920 Highland Way, Mitchell, SD 57301*).

## **Tuesday, August 14**

**8:00—8:30am** Breakfast (included at hotel)

**8:30—9:15am** Drive to Kimball, SD to visit with Midstate Communications (*120 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street #48, Kimball, SD*). On the drive, Kelly Wismer (NTCA) will provide background of the geography the group is passing through, history on Mitchell, SD, where the group spent the night, a wrap-up of the day before and what to expect in the day ahead.

**9:15—10:45am** The group will visit with Midstate Communications CEO/General Manager Mark Benton and Marketing Manager Chad Mutziger, who will provide an overview of the company's history, challenges, and recent broadband deployments. Staffers will also walk a few blocks down the road from the Midstate offices to visit a live cattle sale, which, thanks to Midstate's highspeed broadband, is now available to an international audience.

**10:45—11:30am** Drive to Chamberlain, SD. Kelly Wismer (NTCA) and Jessica Golden (FRS) will review the visit to Midstate and take any questions from staffers. Kelly and Jessica will discuss the unique west vs. east geography of the state and how these differences affect the state's economy and resources. On the route, the group will also pass the sculpture of Dignity, a 50-foot-tall statue designed to honor the cultures of the Lakota and Dakota people.

**11:30—1:30pm** The group will have a roundtable lunch at the Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center (*1301 North Main Street, Chamberlain, SD*), an educational outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School, which works to promote education and understanding of the Northern Plains Indian Culture past, present and future through preservation of historical artifacts and contemporary art.

**11:30am—12:00pm** Tour the Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center

**12:00—1:30pm** Lunch Roundtable. At lunch, staffers will join a roundtable of representatives of South Dakota tribal and rural telecom companies, including:

- Mark Benton, CEO, Midstate Communications
- Mona Thompson, CEO, C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority

- Randy Houdek, CEO, Venture Communications Cooperative
- Rod Bowar, CEO of Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.
- Roger Musick, CEO, Innovative Systems, LLC
- Larry Thompson, CEO of Vantage Point Solutions
- Ryan Thompson, General Manager of Santel Communications Cooperative
- Marlene Bennett, Consultant, Consortia Consulting

Vantage Point, Consortia Consulting and Innovative Systems, which provide essential services such as engineering and billing software to the telcos, will discuss their services as well as the number of jobs they provide in the state. The group will also discuss the role that tribal entities play in South Dakota and the unique challenges of providing broadband to tribal lands.

**1:30—5:00pm** Drive to Wall through Badlands, Drive Highway 240 Badlands Loop Road

- **2:00—3:30pm** As the staffers pass through rural terrain, Kelly Wismer (NTCA) will lead a discussion of the geography of South Dakota and the challenges of providing broadband within the state.
- **3:30—4:00pm** The group will briefly stop for a stretch and bathroom break at Big Badlands Overlook (*Interior, SD 57750*).
- **4:00—5:00pm** Kelly Wismer (NTCA) and Jessica Golden (FRS) will conduct an educational discussion as the group drives through Badlands Loop Scenic Byway. Located in the Northern Great Plains, Badlands National Park is the largest, undisturbed mixed-prairie rangeland remaining in the United States. The park is also considered one of the world's richest mammal fossil beds. Fifty-percent of Badlands National Park is co-managed with the Oglala Lakota (or Oglala Sioux) Nation, the eighth largest American Indian Reservation in the United States. The group continue the discussion on what it is like to serve tribal lands with broadband in South Dakota, as well as the process of securing right of way permits.

**5:00—6:00pm** Check into hotel (*Best Western Plains Motel, 712 Glenn Street, Wall, SD*).

**6:00—6:30pm** Walk to and visit Wall Drug Store before dinner (510 Main Street, Wall, SD; 10-minute walk from hotel). Since the 1930s, Wall Drug has been a fixture and tourist attraction for the small town of Wall. In peak season, up to 20,000 visitors a day visit this small town's cultural and historical site.

**6:30—8:30pm** Over dinner at Wall Drug's Western Art Gallery Restaurant, the group will be joined by Denny Law, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, a rural telecom company that serves a stretch of land from the western boarder of South Dakota to the state's eastern edge. Mr. Law will provide an overview of Golden West's history, challenges and recent broadband deployments. Mr. Law will also give an overview of what the staffers will visit on Wednesday.

### **Wednesday, August 15**

**7:30—8:30am** Breakfast (included at hotel)

**8:30—10:00am** The group will spend the morning with Mr. Law at Golden West Telecom (*415 Crown Street, Wall, SD*) where they will discuss Golden West's vast and complicated broadband service area, which includes extremely remote areas as well as tribal lands.

**10:00am—12:00pm** Drive to Custer, SD.

- **10:30—11:30am** Mr. Law (Golden West) will accompany the group and discuss the company's fiber-to-the-home cutover taking place in Custer that they will get to observe first-hand.

**12:00—1:00pm** The group will visit Golden West's fiber-to-the-home cutover site in Custer, SD where they will get to see first-hand the work that goes into the complicated telecommunications process.

**1:00—2:00pm** After visiting the fiber-to-the-home cutover, the group will have lunch in Custer (*Black Hills Burger and Bun, 441 Mt. Rushmore Road*) where they will get a chance to visit more with the Golden West team about the process of the build.

**2:00—3:00pm** Drive to Mount Rushmore National Memorial (*13000 SD-244, Keystone, SD 57751*). Along the way, Kelly Wismer (NTCA) will share about the Smart Rural Community (SRC) program that NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association started a few years ago. SRC recognizes rural broadband providers that have gone above and beyond not just to build broadband to their communities but have helped the communities utilize the applications of that broadband by partnering with local libraries, schools, farmers, small businesses, public safety affiliates and so on.

**3:00—5:00pm** The staffers will have time for a bathroom break and to visit Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Jessica Golden (FRS) and Kelly Wismer (NTCA) will join the group to continue to reflect on what they have seen so far on the trip. Mount Rushmore National Memorial continues to be a significant economic development tool for the state of South Dakota. With close to 3 million visitors a year, the Memorial is key to many of the small businesses and towns that surround it. When tourists arrive to the nearby areas, they often expect to be able to connect to the internet. Jessica and Kelly will kick off the conversation of the role of broadband in tourism and continue it on the bus back to Rapid City.

**5:00—6:00pm** Drive back to Rapid City, SD. Jessica Golden (FRS) and Kelly Wismer (NTCA) will continue to discuss the important role broadband plays for tourism, especially in states with more remote geography like South Dakota.

**6:00—7:00pm** Check into hotel (*Best Western Ramkota, 2111 N Lacrosse St., Rapid City, SD*) get settled in.

**7:00—9:00pm** Closing dinner (*Kol, 504 Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City, SD*). All rural telecom companies are invited to join the staffers for a wrap-up discussion of the trip, to answer any final questions and to talk about “where do we go from here,” the next steps for broadband in rural America.

### **Thursday, August 16**

Fly to DCA from Rapid City



**Staffers Attending FRS Broadband Tour to South Dakota 2018**

First Name	Last Name	Office	House	State	Confirmed?	Party
Zack	Barth	Rep. Roger Williams	House	TX	YES	Republican
Brian	Bates	Rep. Bob Gibbs	House	OH	YES	Republican
Abbi	Burgess	Rep. Rick Crawford	House	AR	YES	Republican
Caralee	Conklin	Rep. Louie Gohmert	House	TX	YES	Republican
Austin	Gage	Rep. Hal Rogers	House	KY	YES	Republican
Anthony	Giannetti	Rep. Fred Upton	House	MI	YES	Republican
Maggie	Goessler	Rep. John Ratcliffe	House	TX	YES	Republican
Julia	Harrington	Rep. Ed Perlmutter	House	CO	YES	Democrat
Anne Marie	Harrison, JD	Rep. Martha Roby	House	AL	YES	Republican
Bri	Hearn	Rep. Leonard Lance	House	NJ	YES	Republican
Rachel	Hugman	Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham	House	NM	YES	Democrat
Jack	Lincoln	Rep. Doug LaMalfa	House	CA	YES	Republican
Michael	Martin	Rep. Dan Donovan	House	NY	YES	Republican
Bryan	Martin	Rep. Walter Jones	House	NC	YES	Republican
Amber	Milenevich	Rep. Al Lawson	House	FL	YES	Democrat
Alicia	Molt West	Rep. Mark Pocan	House	WI	YES	Democrat
Patrick	O'Connor	Rep. Richard Neal	House	MA	YES	Democrat